

Encountering the Risen Jesus



Werner Joubert

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(Act 9:2) and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

(Act 9:3) Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.



(Act 9:4) And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

(Act 9:5) And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

(Act 9:6) But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

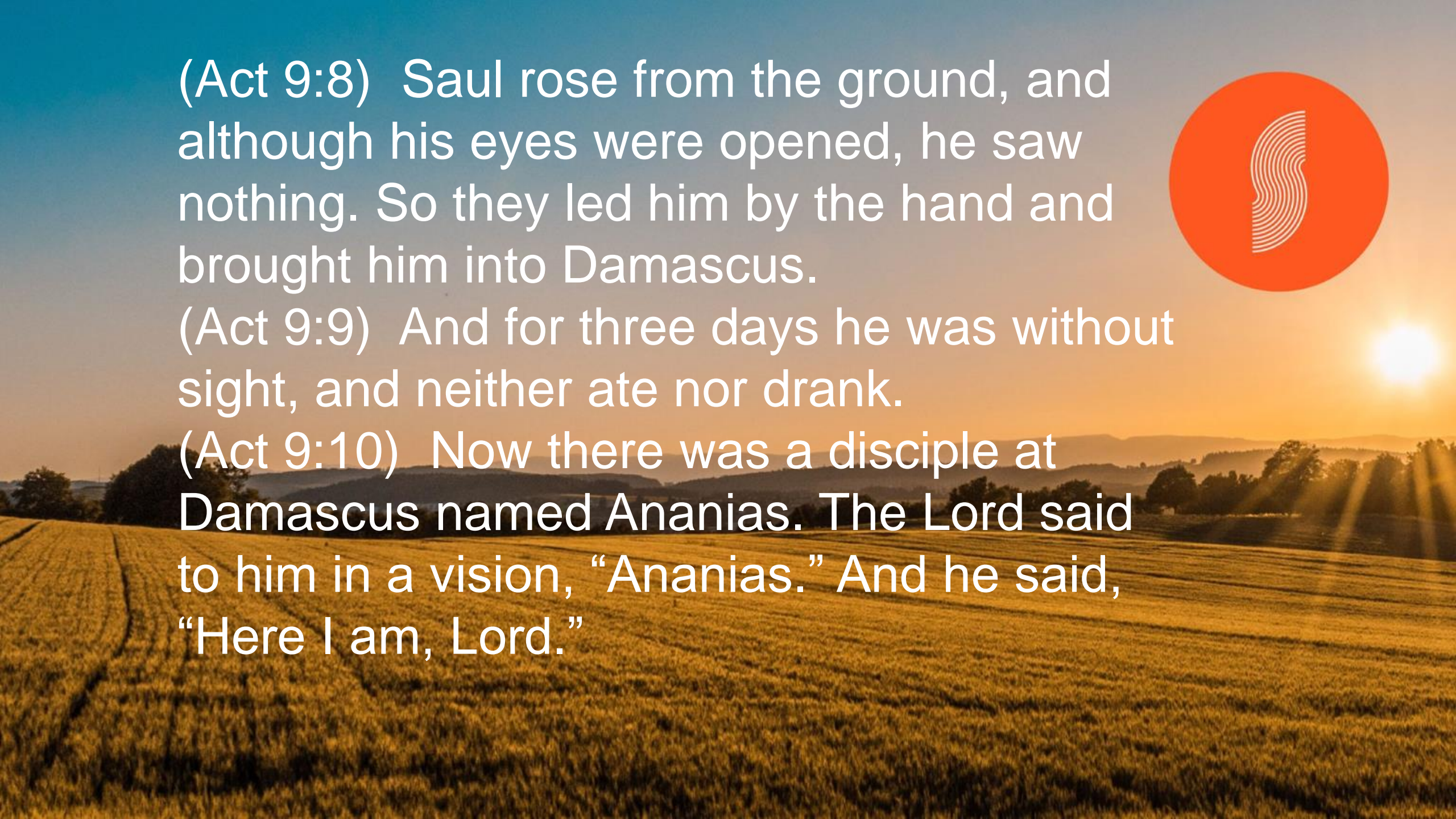
(Act 9:7) The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.



(Act 9:8) Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

(Act 9:9) And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

(Act 9:10) Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."



(Act 9:11) And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,
(Act 9:12) and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”

(Act 9:13) But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.



(Act 9:14) And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.”

(Act 9:15) But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

(Act 9:16) For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”



(Act 9:17) So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

(Act 9:18) And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;



(Act 9:19) and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

(Act 9:20) And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

(Act 9:21) And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?"



(Act 9:22) But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

(Act 9:23) When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him,

(Act 9:24) but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him,





(Act 9:25) but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

(Act 9:26) And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.

(Act 9:27) But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

(Act 9:28) So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

(Act 9:29) And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him.



(Act 9:30) And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

(Act 9:31) So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.



The Breath of Paul

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When we encounter the Risen Jesus

1. Our breath, which is rebellious against God, turns to wonder-filled praise



(Luk 10:27) And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind..”



(Isa 53:6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.



(Rom 3:24) and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
(Rom 3:25) whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.
This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

(Luk 23:46) Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.



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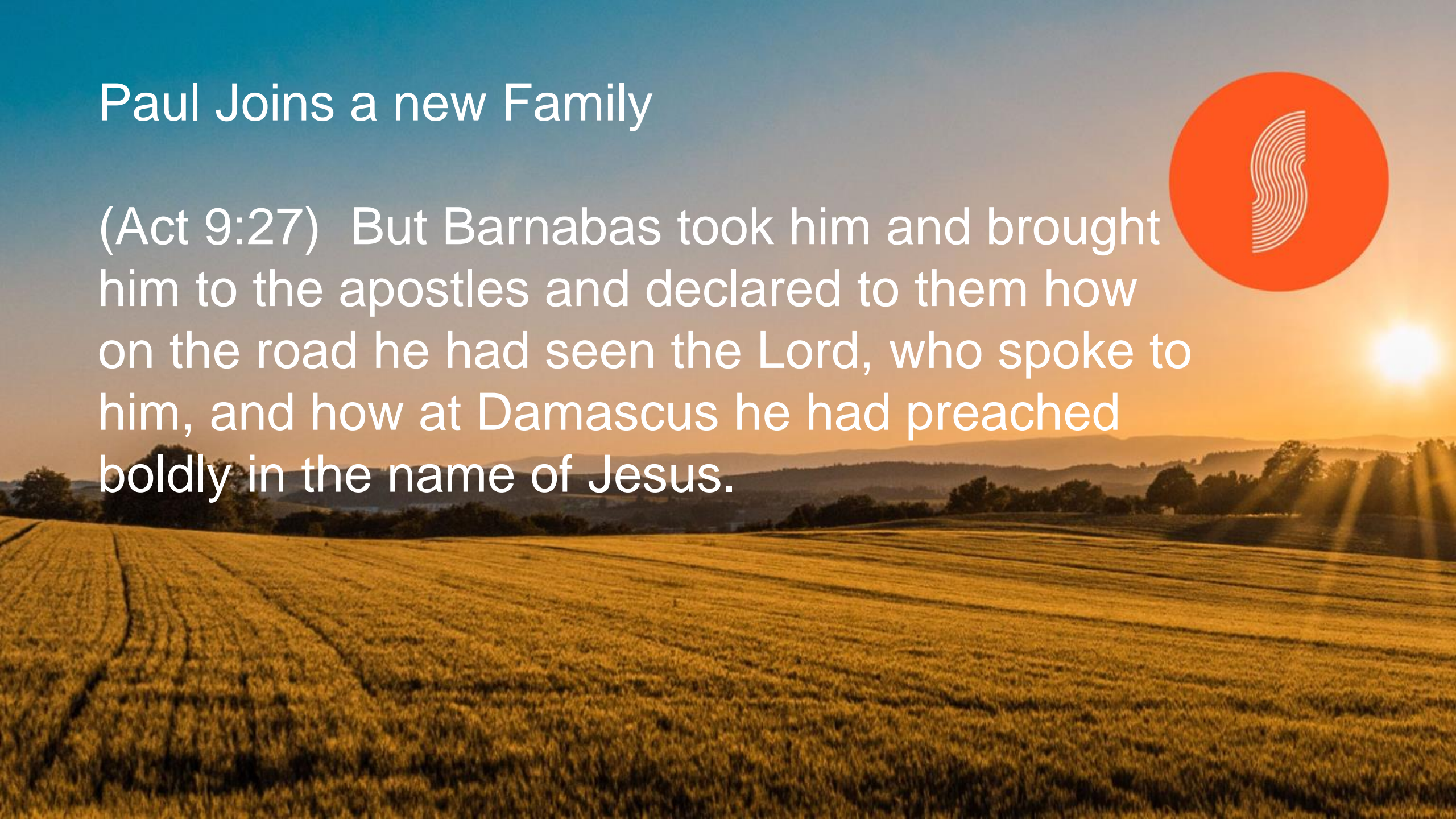
Paul Joins a new Family

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2. His people, where you did not “fit”, becomes your beloved family

(Heb 13:12) So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.



(Mat 27:46) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

A Chosen instrument

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(Rom 1:1) Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,



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(Joh 10:16) And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

(Joh 10:17) For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.

(Joh 10:18) No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”



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